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PATENT

Docket No. 0403-4107US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John Boyland et al.

Group Art Unit: 3677

Serial No.: 10/759,877

Examiner: Jeffrey A. SHARP

Filed: January 16, 2004

For: HOOK NUT CONNECTOR ASSEMBLY

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the In response to the Election Requirement mailed July 14, 2005 in the above-identified application, kindly consider the following election:

ELECTION:

The Examiner, in the Office Action dated July 14, 2005, required election of one of the following species:

Specie I: drawn to figures 2a-3f and 4a-4c, having a trapezoidal base extension tab and rotational insertion, and having a planar contact surface engagement with the base extension tab;

Specie II: drawn to figures 5a and 5b having an assembly with a housing cover, and non-rotational insertion;

Specie III: drawn to figures 6a and 6b having a non-reduced base extension tab, and being inserted from an interior side of a housing and non-rotational insertion;

Specie IV: drawn to figure 7, having a circular base extension tab and rotational insertion, and having a non-planar contact surface engagement with the base extension tab; and

Specie V: drawn to a two-piece fastener comprising a retaining ring or the like, having a non-rotational insertion, and having a non-planar contact surface engagement with the base extension tab.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Specie II, shown in Figures 5a and 5b which read at least on Claims 1-4, 7, 9 and 12-15. Claims 1 and 12 are believed to be generic to all species. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request examination of **claims 1-4, 7, 9 and 12-15** on the merits. Upon allowance of any generic claim, consideration of the additional species is respectfully requested. This election is made with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that for such a requirement to be proper, "[t]here must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required." MPEP §803. Applicant respectfully submits that (1) all groups of restricted claims are properly presented in the same application; (2) undue diverse searching should not be required; and (3) all claims should be examined together. For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction/election requirement should be withdrawn and an action on the merits of all the claims is respectfully solicited.

If any issues exist, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

AUTHORIZATIONS:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for timely consideration of this paper, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 0403-4107US1.

Dated: 8/5/05

By: 

Respectfully submitted,
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